

IN THE DRAWING(S):

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 2-4 and 7 . These sheets replace the original sheet showing Figures 2-4 and 7. Figures 2-4 are amended to add the label "Prior Art." Figure 7 is amended to add the force sensor 71 described at paragraphs 66 and 69 of the present patent application.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, the specification and Figures 2-4 and 7 are amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-26 will remain pending in the patent application.

The Office Action indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 14, 2005 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3) because it allegedly does not include a concise explanation of the relevance. The Examiner then requests that Applicant highlight the documents that are known to be of most significance. Applicant respectfully submits, in response to Examiner's request, that all of the cited documents have come to the attention of Applicant or Applicant's representatives and are all believed to be significant. Thus, consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements dated September 21, 2005 and September 9, 2004 is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner has a specific question as to a specific one or more of the cited documents, Applicant will be happy to respond in more detail.

Figures 2-4 were objected to in the Office Action. In connection with this objection, the Office Action indicates that Figures 2-4 should be designated with the legend "Prior Art." In response, Figures 2-4 are amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Figures 2-4 are respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4). In connection with this Objection, the Office Action indicates that reference character "70" has been used to designate both an actuator and a force sensor. In response, Figure 7 is amended to identify the force sensor with reference numeral "71." The specification has been amended to reflect this change and to make clear that the force sensor could be used with or without the actuator, as originally disclosed in paragraph [0069] of the present patent application (*see* original language "Alternatively or additionally, the element 70 may be a force sensor 70."). It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to Figure 7 overcomes this objection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Figure 7 are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-26 are allowed. Further, in reply to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowable subject

matter, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the allowed claims are patentable for their respective recitations of claimed combinations as a whole, without any particular criticality or distinguishing feature being attributable to any one or more of such features, and without any narrowing interpretation being imposed on any of such features. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart to or be required for patentability of the claims. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims are all separately patentable from each other and are patentable for the subject matter specifically recited as a whole in each of those claims. Applicant also submits that the dependent claims are allowable for their dependence on the allowed independent claims and further for the additional subject matter recited in each of those dependent claims.

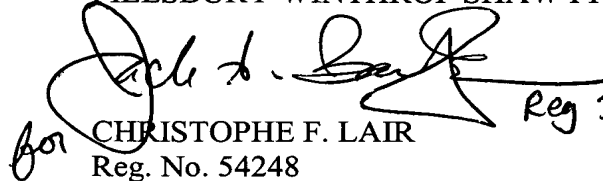
Applicant has addressed the Examiner's rejection and respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP


for CHRISTOPHE F. LAIR Reg 37,087
Reg. No. 54248
Tel. No. 703.770.7797
Fax No. 703.770.7901

JSB/CFL
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900

Encl.: Replacement Drawings (Figures 2-4 and 7)